

Farm Bill Listening Forum

UNITED STATES **USDA**
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

We Welcome Your Comments!

1. The competitiveness of U.S. agriculture and domestic markets.

Every region needs to maintain economically viable local agriculture
Regional markets + regional producers need USDA support in overcoming
high land cost and limited private production support infrastructure

2. The challenges facing new farmers as they enter agriculture.

USDA can help overcome limited access to production knowledge
USDA can provide assistance to local land use and food service regulators
so as to reduce barriers created by local regs created without
an awareness of farm needs and practices

3. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the distribution of farm program benefits.

Commodity support programs need to continue to be replaced
by support for change to alternative crops, production practices and
value added local marketing that enables farmers to compete with
less direct assistance

4. The achievement of conservation and environmental goals.

Economically viable and environmentally friendly locally supported
farms are one of the most cost effective ways to resist sprawl
and all of its attendant loss of environmental and community
quality. Local regulators

5. The enhancement of rural economic growth.

Local farms focusing on selling value added local products within
their regions fuel local economies

6. Opportunities to expand agricultural products, markets, and research.

Emphasis on local means increased need to keep production costs competitive
while still operating on a smaller scale. Technology and thoughtful
regulation are key. Again, USDA can play strong supportive roles

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